

Commission on Aging  
Margot Smith, Chair  
Richard Castrillon, Commission Secretary

# COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, April 19, 2023  
North Berkeley Senior Center  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order by Chair Smith
2. Roll Call by Secretary
3. Introductions by commissioners
4. Public Comments

The public may comment about any item not on the agenda. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item.

5. Approval of minutes from March 15, 2023 (Attachment A)

## Discussion/Action Items

The Commission may act related to any subject listed on the Agenda. Public comments regarding agenda items will be heard while the Commission is discussing the item. Public comments are limited to two minutes per speaker.

6. Commissioner Reports
7. Outreach methods by Aging Services- *Tanya Bustamante, Aging Services Division Manager*
8. Update on Hopkins Corridor Project

## Information Items

9. Hopkins Corridor Letter to City Council: Request that Commission on Aging's report be taken into official consideration (Attachment B)

## Adjournment

### COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the **Disability Services Specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD)** at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the commission secretary for further information.

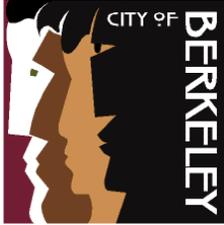
Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the North Berkeley Senior Center located at 1901 Hearst Avenue, during regular business hours. The Commission Agenda and Minutes may be viewed on the City of Berkeley website: <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions>.

**Secretary:**

Richard Castrillon  
Health, Housing & Community Services Department  
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**Mailing Address:**

Commission on Aging/HHCS  
Richard Castrillon  
1901 Hearst Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94709



Health, Housing & Community  
Services Department  
Commission on Aging

## COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday March 15, 2023  
1:30 p.m.

### 1. Roll Call

Present: (5) Porter; Collins; Cochran; Smith

Absent: (0)

Excused Absent: (1) Futran

Staff Present: (2) Richard Castrillon; Mary Triston

Public: (1)

### 2. Public Comment (0)

### Presentation

3. **Berkeley Rides for Seniors & Disabled's 2023-2024 Program Plan** *by  
Transportation Coordinator- Mary Triston*

### Action Items

#### 4. **Approval of the Minutes from January 18, 2023 Regular Meeting:**

M/S: Smith/ Cochran

Ayes: Porter, Collins, Smith, Cochran

Noes: None

Abstain: None

#### 5. **Approval of the Minutes from February 15, 2023 Regular Meeting:**

M/S: Smith/ Cochran

Ayes: Porter, Collins, Smith, Cochran

Noes: None

Abstain: None

#### 6. **Amendment and approval of Chair Smith's letter to City Council concerning the Hopkins Corridor Project and other Fire Evacuation & Emergency Service Routes:**

M/S: Smith/ Cochran

Ayes: Porter, Collins, Smith, Cochran

Noes: None

Abstain: None

**Discussion Items**

**7. Commissioner Reports**

Discussion; No action taken

**8. Multi-generational community programs & projects**

Discussion; No action taken

**9. Outreach from the Commission on Aging for possible community forum on Age-Friendly and policy proposals needed for a graying Berkeley**

Discussion; No action taken

**Commissioners adjourned at 3:30 p.m.**

Minutes Approved on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Castrillon, Commission Secretary



Health, Housing &  
Community Services Department  
**Commission on Aging**

April 11, 2023

City of Berkeley  
Berkeley City Council  
2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704

**Subject: Fire Evacuation & Emergency Service Routes**

Dear Berkeley City Council Members,

The Commission on Aging urges you to maintain and preserve the Fire Evacuation and Emergency Service Routes the City designated in 2011. We ask you to delay your decisions on changing Hopkins Street and Telegraph Avenue until the Fire Evacuation Plan Study you authorized on Tuesday, March 14th, is completed and the plan approved by the Fire Chief, as required by State Law.

Over 24,000 residents of Berkeley live in the Hazardous Fire Area and would need to evacuate via these routes if we had a fire in the hills; about 30% of these residents are over age 65. Current plans for changing Hopkins Street and Telegraph Avenue could block through traffic for both evacuation and emergency response vehicles.

According to ABAG,

**"Vulnerable Populations:**

Certain members in the community are more at risk of being harmed by disasters and specifically fires than others, including the very young, the very old, the disabled and the chronically ill, and residents without access to vehicle. These individuals are more susceptible to the extreme conditions created by a disaster and have less mobility to evacuate out of harm's way."

According to California Fire Code 2019, our fire code official, Chief Sprague, is in charge of making sure that Berkeley's streets are safe evacuation routes. According to law, traffic calming devices shall be prohibited unless approved by the fire code official, **(503.4.1 Traffic Calming Devices)**.

Also, the State of California recently passed two laws that took effect in January of 2022 (AB 1409 and AB747), mandating that studies of evacuation routes be done under different scenarios. This study is to become part of a revised Local Hazard Mitigation Plan due next year in 2024 and undertaken this year. Here is ABAG guidance: [https://abag.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021-11/Resource\\_Guide\\_05\\_Evacuation\\_Considerations.pdf](https://abag.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021-11/Resource_Guide_05_Evacuation_Considerations.pdf)

We on the Commission on Aging are residents of Berkeley and well aware that we are not immune from fire hazards.

According to the **2019 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Summary-4**, "The high risk of wildland-urban interface (WUI) fire in Berkeley was clearly demonstrated in the 1991 Tunnel Fire, which destroyed 62 homes in Berkeley and more than 3,000 in Oakland. Accounts of major wildfires in Berkeley date back to at least 1905 when a fire burned through Strawberry Canyon and threatened the University campus and the small Panoramic Hill subdivision. Other major fires occurred in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1923, an even more devastating fire burned through Berkeley. It began in the open lands of Wildcat Canyon to the northeast and, swept by a hot September wind, penetrated residential north Berkeley and destroyed nearly 600 structures, including homes, apartments, fraternities and sororities, a church, a fire station and a library. The fire burned downhill all the way to Shattuck Avenue in central Berkeley."

For these reasons, the Berkeley Commission on Aging asks that you, the Berkeley City Council, support the maintenance and preservation of Fire Evacuation Routes by keeping them open and clear of elements that would impair their use in emergencies.

Hopkins Street and Telegraph Avenue in particular are needed for Fire Evacuation and Emergency Vehicle use and should be kept safe for all residents of Berkeley, especially the elderly, disabled and very young. We ask you to delay decisions on changing Hopkins Street and Telegraph Avenue until the Fire Evacuation Plan Study you authorized on March 14th is completed and the plan approved by the Fire Chief, as required by State Law.

Sincerely,  
The Commission on Aging  
Margot Smith- Chair

Tanya Bustamante, Manager, Aging Services Division  
Richard Castrillon, Commission on Aging Secretary

	Population	Households	Per Capita Income	Workers Age 16 + Commuters	Commute time	Car Transport %	Public Transport %	Walk %	Bike	College Numbers	Under 18	Over 65	Disabled
City of Berkeley	124,321	43,893	59,752	57,877	24.1	30.2	19.7	15.0	4.1	32,267	12.6	15.1	6.7
Flat Zips													
94702	16,557	7,094	56,564	8,349	33.3	38.2	21.9	6.5	5.8	1,253	19.7	16.2	12.1
94703	19,857	7,962	59,017	11,441	32.7	29.7	25.1	5.8	9.8	2,077	14.6	14.7	10.6
94705	14,150	5,837	89,247	7,298	33.4	35.8	18.3	7.3	6.8	1,375	15.4	24.2	8.9
94706	20,962	7,968	58,992	10,512	31.9	37.1	20.5	4.2	4.8	2,079	25.7	12.9	5.0
94710	8,056	3,368	59,345	4,545	30.5	38.9	17.0	8.0	5.7	903	17.0	14.2	12.5
Subtotal	79,582			42,145						7,687			
Student Zips													
94704	25,124	7,843	26,132	11,222	27.4	20.6	20.3	31.4	4.3	15,915	4.1	4.9	9.0
94709	12,115	5,084	50,497	6,486	26.8	23.9	17.9	32.5	4.7	4,256	8.0	14.4	7.5
94720	2,964	154	7,470	2,009	17.1	12.2	11.9	46.3	2.6	6,246	4.3	0.4	7.7
Subtotal	40,203			19,717						26,417			
Hill Zips													
94707	12,313	4,932	93,499	4,932	34.6	33.8	15.1	2.2	3.2	454	19.2	30.3	7.3
94708	11,937	4,574	94,191	4,574	33.7	40.8	13.2	3.9	2.6	893	17.7	26.0	7.5
Subtotal	24,250			9,506						1,347			
<b>TOTAL</b>	144,035			71,368						35,451			
			Note: U.S. Census Zipcode data does not follow city boundaries, so some numbers, e.g. 94705 and 94707 may include parts of Albany and Kensington.										